

LightSide-

Because No One Should Be Left in the Dark

by Ruth Heberling

Can one half-hour "candle" ignite late-night television? David Gallagher believes it can. Gallagher, President of LightSide Productions, along with car-loads of energetic volunteers and a small handful of lightly-paid staff, hope to bring God's light to shine through secular, over-the-air, television—not cable. Their target: every American. "Look closer to home," yearns Gallagher. "The mission field isn't just Africa or Afghanistan, it's Portland. We're headed for Hell. Young adults are glued to the media. They were raised on it and they've never been weaned. Everything may look right on the outside, but you and I know that there is corruption—and death—going on in the hearts of people in the USA. That's what LightSide has been called to do: target the destruction and death that you can only see in the Spirit."

The premier production of their first production, "Night Light," an upright late-night talk show alternative to Letterman and Leno, aired on KPDX TV 49 in the Portland area on Friday, May 20, at midnight, Northwest time. The 800 number provided for callers to respond to the show brought many favorable comments including, "This is a breath of fresh air!"

This first show featured Portland's home-grown NBA All-Star, A.C. Green, following the opening banter between the blond Gallagher and the 5'10", dark-haired Adrianna Carr, a former model and wife of ex-Portland Trailblazer Kenny Carr. Green unveiled his program promoting purity in dating relationships, and detailed his incessant drive for fearless excellence on the basketball court, all motivated by the love of Jesus, his Savior. Up-coming shows will feature some of Portland's finest, like fitness guru Victoria Johnson, as well as nationally known names like Kirk Cameron,

Amy Grant, Carol Lawrence, Steve Bartkowski, Ricki Skaggs—godly talent of all stripes.

Don't overlook the fine seven-member band led by Rick DiGillionardo and the delightful comedy troupe, the "Half-Lit" players, whose off-the-wall sketches you won't want to miss. The "Half-Lit" players, led by Clark Corkum, are looking forward to facing the challenge of producing wholesome, riotous comedy each week, starting in mid-1995, and heading for a nightly show as soon as God allows.

"It's very difficult to keep humor godly," admits Corkum. "Comedy is born out of tragedy, [but] when you laugh at something, there is always massive potential for offending someone. We want to use comedy as a way for healing instead of cutting. That's the key for turning it around."

"LightSide wants to show Americans that you don't have to lose your sense of

humor as you grow in Christ. You don't have to be a stick in the mud," smiles Gallagher in his black and white striped shirt. "When you know Christ, you enter a world of incredible freedom that you don't find any other way. Our first production, "Night Light," is a down-to-earth, relevant program for young adults 18 to 35. We're providing an alternative to late-night talk shows with strong entertainment value that also has a Christian testimony. But we don't drag a Christian testimony out of our guests, or manipulate the conversation so Christ is featured. We don't need to do that. When people who love Christ get together, Jesus is a vital part of each facet of their lives and that comes out naturally in their conversation."

Harnessing the power and influence of the visual media to reflect the image of God and reconcile people to Him through Christ would be a valuable tool for accomplishing the Church's mission of making disciples. But can this be done on non-cable secular stations? Challenging the enemy on this particular turf is certainly a courageous and vital maneuver to reach our large, English-speaking people-group that has sold out to that small, bright box named Television. Numerous friends, already in the television broadcasting business, have carefully told Gallagher that it would take a miracle for his ideas to take root in such a morally decadent field. But miracles are exactly what Gallagher is counting on—because when God works, miracles happen.

Glancing briefly heaven-ward, the blue-eyed Gallagher reflects, "Trying to get involved in the media, as you can imagine, is a daunting task. If I had known half of what I was getting into, I would have been too scared to death to ever do it. I've discovered that God is not into full disclosure. When He calls you into something, He often doesn't show you the entire picture because it would be too overwhelming. Your frail humanity would run in terror

